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ANDERSON COUNTY.

The Lawrenceburg graded school, with 324 pupils, was examined and 8 cases of trachoma were found among them. This was a little more than 2.26 per cent. The Lawrenceburg High School, with 85 pupils, was examined and 2 cases of trachoma, or 2.3 per cent, were found. Of the 409 pupils examined, therefore, 10 of them had trachoma. Besides the 10 positive cases there were 7 which were classed as suspicious, the majority of which were probably acute or beginning cases of trachoma. In the office of the county health officer 55 persons were examined and 15, or 27 per cent, were found to have trachoma. It had been advertised, however, that an eye clinic was to be held on that day, which accounts to a great extent for the high percentage of trachoma found. Of the 464 people examined in and outside of the schools 25 of them, or 3.4 per cent, were found to have trachoma. On a later visit to Lawrenceburg at the invitation of the county health officer 12 additional cases presented themselves for examination and treatment. This county is in the heart of the blue-grass region, which has been supposed to be more or less free from the disease. The people of Lawrenceburg immediately upon learning that trachoma existed among them to this extent established a small hospital. Upon their request I spent several days assisting in opening the hospital and operating on these cases.

FAYETTE COUNTY.

The nine graded schools of Lexington, in which 3,844 pupils were examined, showed 109 positive cases of trachoma and 25 suspicious cases. This gives an infection of 3.8 per cent in the graded schools of Lexington. One thousand and fifty-seven of these school children were negroes, among whom only 7 cases of trachoma were found. Of the 2,787 white children, 102 cases of trachoma were found, which shows a percentage of 3.65 of the white children in the graded schools to be suffering from trachoma.

I have been requested by the county school superintendent to examine the country schools, and this will be done as soon as possible. There are about 3,000 children in these schools. At the request of the secretary of the prison commission at Frankfort I will examine the inmates of the State houses of reform at Greendale, Fayette County, for the purpose of determining the prevalence of trachoma there. There are about five or six hundred in the houses of reform.

SANITARY PROGRESS.

COUNTY OF NEW HANOVER AND CITY OF WILMINGTON, N. C.

By C. W. STILES, Professor of Zoology, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

Attention has been previously invited to the sanitary campaign in New Hanover County, N. C., and its county seat, Wilmington.¹

A few weeks ago it was possible to report that Cape Fear Township, of this county, had a privy at every home and at every school. This township has an area of 63.43 square miles and a population of 1,605 persons.

A second township—namely, Masonboro—is now in the same condition, according to the reports of the sanitary police.

¹ Public Health Reports, Dec. 4, 1915, p. 3251.

Masonboro Township, New Hanover County, has an area of 25.55 square miles, with a total population of 1,032 persons (727 white; 305 negro). On October 1, 1914, 14 per cent of the white families and 47 per cent of the negro families had no privy of any description. For the township now to be able to report that every family has a privy is an indication of real progress, even if it be admitted that some of the privies have not 100 per cent efficiency when compared with a city sewer.

Fortunately, the county holds before its people high ideals of privy construction; and even if these standards are not attained immediately in every instance, it may be said with satisfaction that the temporary makeshift, known as the pit privy (or ostrich privy), is exceptional in New Hanover and that the sanitary foundling, known as the umbrella privy, and found in some localities, is not known in this county.

There are certain striking features in regard to the New Hanover work which are deserving of mention.

First. The people are recognizing the importance of the sanitary disposal of excreta. It is this education that leads a family not only to construct a privy, but more important than that, to maintain and to use the privy after it is constructed. Privy maintenance is just as essential as privy construction, and while people can be driven into privy construction, they must be led into privy maintenance; in other words, their intelligence must be appealed to.

This increased intelligence is the most striking feature of the New Hanover work.

Second. While the planning has been done by professional sanitarians, most of the actual field work has been done by sanitary policemen who were selected from among the people themselves.

The success that is attending the work is a demonstration of the important tactical and administrative point that a lay sanitarian, namely, a sanitary policeman, can get into the confidence of the people and lead them to improvement to a very remarkable degree.

Third. The campaign is being carried out with little or no friction. It is a campaign of education, not of driving and police courts. It shows that educational methods can accomplish results for which some persons believe the exercise of police powers are necessary.

Fourth. The ideals held up to the public are high, and the people are being gradually, steadily, and confidently led toward them. It may be years before these ideals are fully attained, but they should still constantly be held before the public.

One of the striking instances of the intelligence back of the New Hanover campaign is to be found in the progressive and farsighted policy of the board of education in making provision for a modern

sanitary privy with concrete tanks at every rural school in the entire county.

So far as known there is no rural county in the entire South, other than New Hanover, which has made such progress in this phase of school sanitation.

The total rural area of New Hanover County (outside of the limits of the city of Wilmington) is 164.11 square miles, with a total population of 7,055 persons (4,113 white, 2,942 negro).

The two townships which now report every home with a privy (it is self-understood that not all can as yet be classified as sanitary, but none are of the "umbrella type" and very few are of the "pit" type) have a total area of 88.98 square miles and a total population of 2,637 persons.

Work is progressing well in the two remaining townships, namely, Harnett and Federal Point, and it is expected that before many months these also will be able to report that every home has a privy.

The New Hanover campaign is not by any means confined to the four rural townships mentioned. In fact, it is especially in the county seat, Wilmington, that the spirit of sanitary progress is strikingly evident.

According to the most recent local census, Wilmington has a population of 31,361 inhabitants.

In June, 1911, this city had 5,280 privies on the scavengers' list; almost all of these toilets were of the surface type, and it is estimated that the total number was as near 6,000 as 5,000. By actual count, in March, 1914, there were 3,997 privies; these were nearly equally divided in number between the surface type and the can type; on the scavengers' list there were 3,158, of which 1,487 were of the surface type and 1,671 of the can type. On August 31, 1914, this number had been reduced by 1,998 as closely as could be estimated from the scavengers' records.

The local board of health reports that during the calendar year 1914 there were 1,856 new flush closets installed, an average of 154 per month. It is estimated that there are approximately 50 plumbers and helpers at work in the plumbing trade at Wilmington, exclusive of laborers used in digging trenches and for the laying of laterals in the city.

Toward the end of the year there developed a serious complication. There was a distinct reduction in the installation of flush closets, apparently owing to the fact that under present financial conditions the small borrowers experienced difficulty in obtaining loans from the building and loan associations and the banks.

At first thought, this difficulty seemed unfortunate, but events have proved that there is another point of view, for it gave Wilmington an opportunity to set another new example in sanitary policies, namely:

The Wilmington City Council has just voted to make available the sum of \$50,000 on loan for the exclusive purpose of changing privies to flush closets. The conditions of the loan are as follows:

The amount loaned is sufficient to meet the expense of installing the closets, with sewer connection, namely, an average of approximately \$32 per closet; the property owner gives to the city as security his note at 6 per cent and made payable in installments to suit his convenience, and secured by a lien on the property.

By this means the city hopes to induce within the next six months a connection to the sewer for every privy within the sewer area of the city. This appropriation of \$50,000 is in addition to the \$50,000 just voted for the improvements in the water supply, and \$10,000 to be expended in continuing the antimosquito campaign by draining and filling in mosquito-breeding places.

When one considers the geographic location of Wilmington and New Hanover, and the fact that its nearby summer resort, Wrightsville Beach, is visited by persons from the various Southern States, it is clear that the present New Hanover sanitary campaign is of more than local significance. If the present rate of progress continues (and there is in sight no indication to the contrary), the general educative effect of the campaign will be felt in many parts of the South and, further, the improvements will attract to Wilmington an increasing number of visitors.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

ALABAMA—MOBILE.

The following statement of plague-prevention work in Mobile was taken from reports received from Dr. Charles A. Mohr, city health officer:

Examination of rats.

Week ended—	Rats collected.	Rats examined.	Week ended—	Rats collected.	Rats examined.
1914.			1915.		
Nov. 7.....	375	328	Jan. 2.....	164	133
Nov. 21.....	306	239	Jan. 9.....	107	84
Nov. 28.....	322	270	Jan. 16.....	127	112
Total.....	1,003	829	Jan. 23.....	91	76
Dec. 12.....	299	276	Jan. 30.....	48	48
Dec. 19.....	252	221	Total.....	537	453
Dec. 26.....	225	70			
Total.....	776	567			